BAR HILL NEWS

April 2026 Issue 679

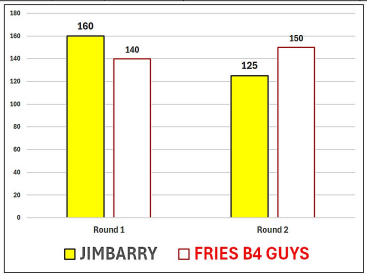
BHCA FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

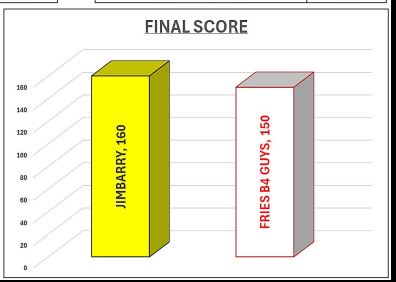
Despite not being able to hold a grand finals day at the village hall, the children had an amazing afternoon competing head-to-head in their two teams, with their Parents, Friend's and Family all cheering them on. Wearing their own designed T-Shirts (which they get to keep), they had 2 rounds each with only their top score being counted as their final result.

Round 1	Round 2	BEST SCORE
160	125	160
140	150	150

Team Name	BEST SCORE
JIMBARRY	160
FRIES B4 GUYS	150

POSITION	BEST SCORE
JIMBARRY	160
FRIES B4 GUYS	150





Every player was awarded with their very own medal before the final results were announced, and as well as the trophy, some Achievement Certificates were handed out:

ROBOT PROGRAMMING	completing 2 missions in one program	**REBECCA**
	completing the most difficult "Scene Change"	**CELESTE**
	top marks for never giving up to the very end	**ELORA**
T SHIRT DESIGN	colourful and wonderfully intricate design	**OLIVIA**

Both teams amassed some amazing totals completing more than 6 missions each in the allotted 3 minute time. The eventual winners, were the team "**JIM-BARRY**" who narrowly beat the "**FRIES-B4-GUYS**" team.

But it doesn't end here as we are now doing presentations to other schools who have seen our website and BHN articles, and are really interested in getting teams to compete in this exciting STEM based FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE with support from Bar Hill Community Association – More news when we have it!

THIS MONTH: Cambridgeshire Community Lottery (P3), Letters (P5-7), Cricket Club (P15), Maggie's Bake & Brew (P19), PTA Update (P25), Longstanton & Northstowe Bowls (P28), Local Athlete Wins Gold (P31), Saxon Park Update (P32), Parish Council Elections (P33), and Maple Surgery Update (P34).

BHCA

DEAD ON ARRIVAL

Spring touring show

Written by Barry Lambert

By arrangment with Lazy Bee Scripts.

Cambridge 7th May
Rampton 8th May
Bar Hill 9th May
Swavesey 12th May

A comedy murder mystery performed by Swavesey RADSOC.

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If you'd like to contact the BHCA then you can either;

- Write to us at **Parish Council Offices, Hanover Close, Bar Hill. CB23 8EH**
- Email the Chair of Trustees at **chair-of-trustees@barhill-ca.org**, or

We meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Fox. If you'd like an agenda please get in touch!

Help! We're Missing Something

Maybe it's an article by a group you support? A bit of local news? Or even details of an event? Let us know!

Deadline for our May issue is **Thursday 9th**

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association.

There is no charge for Articles, What's On, For Sale or Lost and Found. These appear at the Editor's discretion.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Each month we will be keeping you up to date with our progress in raising funds through the local Cambridgeshire community Lottery. **THE GREAT NEWS WE HAVE IS THAT UP TO THE END OF FEBRUARY THE PEOPLE PLAYING THE LOTTERY HAVE ALREADY RAISED OVER £400** *(with an number of winners among them!)*

But we could do so much more for our village (such as The New Playground, the forthcoming Skatepark, and lots more for you to have pride in being a part of Bar Hill etc.), with **YOUR** help.

To support BHCA who have now been approved as "Good Cause", Sign up and buy Cambridgeshire Community Lottery tickets, where you have a much greater chance of winning than most other lotteries.

Why play the lottery?

Support good causes!

60% of your ticket purchase supports local charities and community organisations.

From your £1 ticket, your chosen cause will get 50p and Cambridgeshire Community Foundation will receive 10p to support other causes across the county.

Win great prizes!

Cash prizes range from £25 to £25,000.

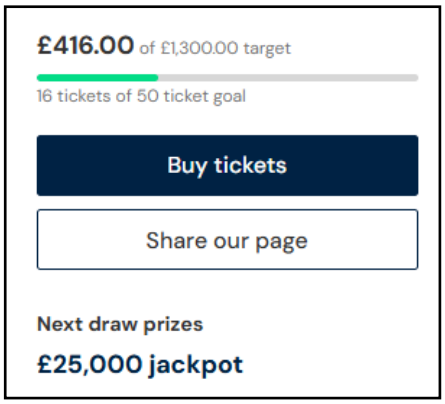
The lottery offers a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize, and a better chance of winning the jackpot than the National Lottery!

Support your local community!

Every good cause supported by the lottery will benefit Cambridgeshire and its residents.

Tickets cost just £1 per week with a chance of winning up to £25,000 (see prize listing below).

And the great news is that 50p from every ticket goes directly to a good cause which you chose (*we hope that would be BHCA of course*).



If you want more information then please feel free to contact any of the BHCA Trustees or Volunteers and they can advise.

Or all you need to do is visit **http://www.cambridgeshirecommunitylotteryco.uk/support/find-a-good-cause** and select Bar Hill Community Association as your chosen "good cause" when you purchase your ticket(s).

Hedgehog Fact: An Ancient Animal Hedgehogs have existed for around 15 million years, meaning they were roaming the earth long before humans began shaping the landscapes they now depend on.

BOBS April 2026

Welcome to the males in Bar Hill.

What is BOBS we stand for Bar Hill Old Boys. BOBS is a replacement for Crafts Shed that after 5 years of operating as a Charity, the painful decision was taken due to lack of accommodation to disband as a Charity.

What do we do, we meet on Thursdays in the Octagon Meeting Room between 0945 and 1130. We may just chat, play chess, or some play Table Tennis. Occasionally some may go for tea/ coffee or lunch afterwards. It is a great group to be a member of. Don't be on your own when you may be able to make new friends.

Currently the next outing is being investigated

Should you require further information then either contact Nick Gunton on **07484 255514** or Chris Stannard **07711 623425**

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LETTERS, NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send your letters & notices to **bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org**. Thank you!

Bar Hill Indoor Bowls Club

We meet in the school on Friday evenings during term time only from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm with a 1/2 hour break for coffee. We are a very friendly group and we would love to have some new members. It doesn't matter if you have never played before just come along and join us one Friday, the cost is £3 per week but the 1st week is free.

Due to the school holidays there will be no bowls on Friday 3 or 10 April. We restart on Friday 17th.
If you would like more information please contact me on **01954 204171 / 07847 327709** or **barbara.page@live.co.uk**

Bar Hill Catholic Mass

Mass will be held in Bar Hill Church at 6pm on Saturdays. Our services are open to all and everyone is very welcome to attend. If you have any queries please call Bunty Waters **07734 690580**. Our local parish priest is Father Adrian Gates, from OLEM, Ditton; he is also the Hospital Chaplain - **07842 190882**. Contact Bunty Waters for more info.

NEW! SERVICE - HUB ADVICE DROP-IN:

Having retired from Citizens Advice, I am now offering a Drop-In service in the Hub on Monday mornings (10-11.30).

This will largely be sign-posting on a first come, first served basis and will take place in the main Octagon room.

If you would like to see me, grab yourself a hot drink and come and have a chat or please speak to any of the Hub team who will be wearing a lanyard and can point you in my direction.

Whether you need advice on Debt, Consumer, Legal, Family, Benefits, Employment, etc, I'm happy to listen and guide.

Warmly, Kevin Potts

Bar Hill Church Knit &Natter Group

Thursday 1.30 until 3.00p.m. in The Octagon.

We are a well- established and a popular group who are keen and committed to knitting items that help others in need, and meet to knit and make new friends, produce some fantastic baby clothes, blankets and knitted toys etc., and enjoy tea and cakes together, and sometimes just chat and share stories.

As part of our programme we encourage the ladies to take part in some simple helpful and fun exercises designed to improve general welfare and to keep their fingers and joints moving well, and boost their physical and mental health.

Our present knitting programme is to produce baby clothes and blankets for local new young mums with limited resources, and also blankets for people in the village who may have health or welfare problems and need a helping hand or a kind gesture. We try to respond to any group or individual who needs this help.

New members are always very welcome and find it helps to have a regular group to attend weekly and are always happy to find new friends to chat to and share their “ups and downs” their interests and achievements.

All the wool and patterns are available for the ladies to use. So there are no financial obligations. However contributions of wool from friends and neighbours are very welcome!

During the year we have extra events like craft sessions, tea parties and some outings.

Want to know more? Drop in and see what we are doing any Thursday afternoon or for more information give me a ring. Sue Kenchington **01954 780260**. Hope to meet you soon!

Community Market

The Next Community Market will be Saturday April 25th from 10.00am to 1pm

The deadline for submissions is the second Thursday of the month.
Please send your article to **bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org** (PDF, Word, Pages, etc)

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Bar Hill HAPPY HOURS Club

The Bar Hill Happy Hours club meets in the main bar area of the Bar Hill Sports and Social Club between 2 and 4pm on Friday afternoons for tea/coffee and cakes, getting together with friends, fun and games. All of this for only £2 per person. The bar is open if you want something extra.

Coming in April

3rd April- Good Friday Easter theme

10th April- Bingo and a quiz

17th April - Games and a quiz

24th April - St George's Day/Bingo

For further information please contact Anne Plumb | **07790 306922** | anne@rwp10.plus.com

Fly-tipping in South Cambridgeshire can lead to heavy penalties — from fixed fines around £600–£700 to court fines over £9,000 and even criminal records. It's illegal to dump waste anywhere except in your kerbside bins, at Household Recycling Centres, Waste Electrical drop off points such as those at Tesco (Bar Hill) or via Council bulky waste collections. Always dispose of rubbish at authorised sites and use only licensed waste carriers (check the Environment Agency register) to avoid fines and protect our environment.

8 o'clock Club

The club is a women's group and we meet in the school on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm.

There will be no meeting in April due to school holidays. Our next meeting is on Thursday 7 May.

Our fee is £15 per year to join and then we make a charge at each meeting to cover the cost of refreshments and a raffle.

We welcome new members to the club. If you would like to join please come along to one of our meetings or phone Barbara **204171** (**07847 327709**), Adela **204265** or Ann **204687.**

Dear Editor, RE: Puzzle Solutions

The solution to last month's puzzle is;

- **Across** - 1. Chain link. 6.hebridean. 7.on the mend. 10.short term.
- **Down** - 1.cahoots. 2.alb. 3.naivest. 4.ire. 5.kingdom. 8.too. 9.eke

This month's puzzle can be found on Page 20. Hope you enjoy it!

Keith Morris

Olive Tree Bereavement Group

Our next meeting for members will be held on Saturday 11th April at 10.30a.m. The following month is 9th May 2026. Both are held in the Octagon at 10.30a.m.

We will be pleased to see you if you are a regular member, a new member or if you have never been before.

The clocks have moved forward to British Summer Time. Spring is here with the bulbs and plants coming into flower. However, a feeling of isolation and loneliness, particularly at night might still occur. If this is you perhaps you would like to come along and meet people experiencing this too?

This is a very welcoming group where you can talk quite freely and your confidence will be respected. There will be time to share your experiences, listen and have discussion as well as getting to know others in the group, with time for refreshments too.

If you are wondering whether the group is right for you, please phone one of us to talk about it. We welcome all new comers and would prefer that they arrive at 10.00a.m.on the above dates so that we can explain more about what happens.

The leaders, who are CRUSE Trained, and members of the group will offer a warm welcome and you will be in the presence of people who have been through loss and understand the pain and difficulties that this brings.

For more details telephone Sue Kenchington on **780260**, or Chris Stannard on **781978**.

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BAR HILL COMMUNITY LITTER PICKING!

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

10.30AM – 11.30 AM

MEET AT THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES

ALL AGES WELCOME

EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED

"Fill a Bag" for Charity!

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is holding their first "Fill a bag" shopping event in April. Shoppers will have the opportunity to fill a pre-provided recyclable bag with women's, men's and children's clothes for just £5.

The shopping event, taking place at the Hospice in Shelford Bottom, CB22 3FB will be open on the following dates and times: Friday 24 April 3pm - 6pm, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26, 10am - 2pm, and will remain open while stocks last. Shoppers are advised to keep an eye on our social media channels for updates.

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity supports people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end-of-life care.

For more information about the event, please visit: https://www.arhc.org.uk/retail-sale

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

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at The Over Day Centre, 1 Drings Close, Over CB24 5N
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please visit https://www.facebook.com/OverMemoryCafe/

Saturday, April 25
Saturday, May 23
Saturday, June 27

OVER DAY CENTRE

SATURDAY LUNCH CLUB

our next lunch is on
Saturday, April 25

Welcoming all residents of Over and surrounding villages to join us for lunch at the Day Centre on the fourth Saturday of each month, service starting at 12:30 following the Memory Café

to book your place or for more information
email: saturdaylunchclub@overdaycentre.co.uk
www.overdaycentre.co.uk/whats-on/saturday-lunch-club/
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1 Apr /6 May/ 3 June /1 Jul /5 Aug /2 Sept /7 Oct/ 4 Nov /2 Dec

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association **01223 416141** or enquiries@cambsdeaf.org for enquiries & volunteering opportunities.

Bar Hill Memorial Garden

Spring is fast approaching; fortunately, the days are getting longer, the bulbs have begun really showing themselves. The tidy up in the Autumn last year has made a real difference. We are now aware that some grasses may have to be replaced this year. Thank you to all who helped.

If there are any gardeners keen to help in this project please contact Chris below.

My grateful thanks to all who continue to donate towards the upkeep of the Memorial Garden, cheques / cash may be left at 7 Acorn Avenue made payable to Bar Hill Memorial Garden or alternatively paid directly into Bar Hill Memorial Account at the Cambridge Building Society Account Number 1768402740 Sort Code 20-17-55 If you wish to talk to someone re a donation then please phone Chris on the numbers below. Thank you to those who have given financial support for this work.

Should you wish to place a Memorial Plaque then contact Chris Stannard **01954 781978**, **07711 623425**, **c.e.stannard1@gmail.com**

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We meet in the Octagon on the 4th Thursday of the Month, at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Dates/ Topics for the 2026 meetings will be; *April 23rd A speaker TBC, June 25th Summer social event, July 11th Fete table, August 27th Normal meeting with quiz, cheese and snacks and a raffle, and AGM October 22nd.*

During 2025 we had a fish and chip supper, took part in the Village Fete and organised the Poppy Appeal.

If you are interested in joining or would like further information or help, please contact either Wendy Arrowsmith on **01954 781381** or Malcolm Cox on **01953 488657**.

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Edna Murphy - **Edna.Murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**
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Cambridgeshire County Council

Holiday Food Vouchers

The County Council has for some years topped up a government programme called Household Support Fund, which ensured that children receiving free school meals were automatically entitled to food vouchers in the school holidays. This programme has been successful and a vital source of support for over 24,000 families in Cambridgeshire.

The new government has closed the Household Support Fund with effect from the end of March this year with the promise that it would be 'replaced' by another scheme - the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF). The problem is that the CRF explicitly does not allow 'blanket' voucher schemes, that is where eligibility for holiday food vouchers is automatic where a child is on free school meals. Instead the CRF is about financial resilience generally, where public support is only available following individual, case by case assessment. So some children who are in great need will miss out, because of the onerous nature of the assessment their family has to go through. The CRF is also not going to be fully operating for some months.Because of the 'cliff edge' that thousands of families were going to face starting in the Easter holidays, we were keen to ensure that holiday food vouchers for children on free school meals could continue through the summer holidays, albeit at a slightly reduced rate (based on what was affordable). We put £2.7m into the budget this year in order to support the holiday food voucher scheme through the summer holidays. We are also looking at how best to use the CRF funding, through a broad anti poverty strategy looking at challenges faced by people of all ages.

Highways Update

Unfortunately there are concerns that the A14 overbridge seems to be developing its 'bump' again. Highways has been alerted and they will discuss what to do with National Highways.

Signs on the roundabout need to be repaired - it has been a battle to get measurements safely and unfortunately the council did not keep any templates. Potholes were reported on the ring road (outside Field View, The Spinney, Hillcrest, The Brambles, Appletrees) and Highways has planned the work.

The burst drain near Gladeside was fixed by the water company but before the council could jump in to work on the blocked drains the water company had closed up the road and finished. This was not an efficient way to operate and the two organisations are in talks to try to find a better way - where they both need to access the same stretch of road it would be better to get both jobs done at the same time.

An emerging issue for the village is the fact that there is so much subsidence, and there needs to be a proper geotechnical assessment to understand how it is affecting roads and footways. This is beyond the scope of the highways maintenance team but the council's highways engineers will inspect the village later in the year to consider what implications there are - if any - for future maintenance or preventive work.

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Bar Hill Cricket Club

Our preparations are under way for the 2026 season when - thanks to winning the league last season - we will be playing in a higher division!

We'll be in the CCA Junior League 3W and will be playing 40-over matches against some familiar and some new opponents, with fixtures against Cambridge St Giles III, Godmanchester Town II, Haslingfield, Hemingford Park, Madingley II, Needingworth, Over & Willingham and Steeple Morden. Look out for details of upcoming home fixtures at the village green in next month's issue.

We'll also again be playing midweek matches in the Cambs Business Houses League, which start at 6pm and are 15 8-ball overs per side. Matches will be against RSC, Camden, BAS, Cokenach, Superkings, Queens Head Newton and Qualcomm. All our fixtures are at home - support welcome!

We've been having some indoor net sessions to start our preparations and outdoor sessions will begin once weather and daylight permit - watch this space or visit our website.

Finally, many thanks to those who support our quiz night at the Sports & Social Club, raising funds for the club.

If you are interested in playing, or getting involved in the club some other way, get in touch via info@barhillcricket.org.uk or on the number below, or follow all the latest in the Bar Hill News and on our website at barhillcricket.org.uk or on our Facebook page.

Paul Stimpson

201212 | info@barhillcricket.org

Free Legal Advice/ Will Writing Sessions

Did you know that Arthur Rank Hospice offers free legal advice and Will writing sessions?

For more information about the sessions and how to leave a gift in your Will to Charity please visit arhc.org.uk/iwill or speak to Rachael, Furture Gifts Manager on **01223 675881** or email r.brown@arhc.org.uk

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When: 4th Monday each month, 10 - 11.30 am

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Find out more: 01954 206 120 (Centre Manager), ask at the surgery or pop into the Hub any Monday

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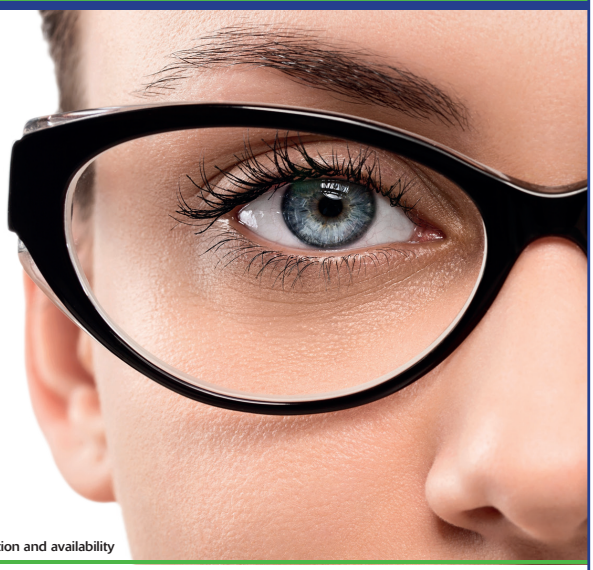

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BAR HILL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Bunty Waters - bunty.waters@scambs.gov.uk
01954 201421/ 07734 690580

South Cambridgeshire District Council

WHAT DOES SOUTH CAMBS DC DO?

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) manages local services including waste collection, recycling, social housing, planning applications, and council tax collection. SCDC is responsible for environmental health, business licensing, community support, and local economic development. Key services are often delivered via the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service.

Key Responsibilities and Services

- **Waste and Recycling:** Managing bin collections, recycling, and street cleaning
- **Planning and Building:** Planning applications, building control, and developing the local plan
- **Housing Services:** Managing council-owned homes, repairs, and housing advice
- **Council Tax and Benefits:** Council Tax, business rates, and housing benefits.
- **Environmental Health:** Food safety, noise complaints, pollution, and pest control.
- **Licensing:** Issuing licences for businesses, taxis, and caravan sites.
- **Community Safety & Support:** Providing wellbeing, leisure facilities, and support for the vulnerable.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Climate change, conservation, and green initiatives.

COVID COMMEMORATION TREE

This is a lovely Cherry tree to be planted in Bar Hill to remember all those who have suffered in Covid however, the HUB is the very positive place to have developed from that time and it continues on Monday mornings with benefits to so many people. The tree is just adjacent to the Tennis Courts & Hanover Housing flats.

Weekly Food Waste Collections Start

During 2026 households will receive a new weekly food waste collection service. This additional service is part of new national legislation requiring councils to collect food waste separately. It will help boost recycling rates and reduce the amount of food sent to landfill. Collections in Bar Hill will begin in June & you will receive a letter to inform you.

BAR HILL BIN COLLECTION DATES

DATE (*Thursday unless notified*)	BLACK BIN	BLUE BIN	GREEN BIN
2nd April		✔	✔
9th April	✔		
16th April		✔	✔
23rd April	✔		
30th April		✔	✔
7th May	✔		
14th May		✔	✔
21st May	✔		

This website address will take you to the correct page on the Greater Cambridge website.

www.greatercambridgewaste.org/find-your-household-bin-collection-day

Bar Hill Neighbourhood Watch

working for a safer community

To contact Neighbourhood watch please email **nhwinbarhill@yahoo.co.uk**

To keep up to date on the latest developments please join us on facebook: **bit.ly/FBBarHillNHW** (or search for "Bar hill NHW")

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Bar Hill Library - April 2026

Thank you to all who have visited us in the newly-refurbished library building. We have really appreciated all the positive comments and it has been great to reconnect with so many of you.

In addition to our regular events, we have been running a children's craft activity during the Easter holiday. This paper plate weaving activity has been producing striking results.

As part of the National Year of Reading, we are inviting library users to share suggestions of books for others to read. If you would like to take part, simply ask for a suggestion form at the desk. Once you have filled it in, put it into our suggestion box and we will be making a display of your ideas.

Bar Hill Preschool CIO
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March was a vibrant celebration month in the Preschool with full of fun activities.

World Book Day 2026 took place on the 5th March. This day is marking an annual, worldwide celebration of books, authors and reading, particularly aiming to encourage children to read for pleasure. It is supported by UNESCO and it is celebrated in over 100 countries. It was a really special couple of days for the children, who were encouraged to share their favourite books and dress up as their favourite characters. We brought their stories to life both indoors and - thanks to the weather – outside in the park which they really enjoyed.

Due to World Book Day here is a little quiz for our readers:
Can you guess the book?

- The main character is a mouse
- The mouse walks into a forest
- The mouse meets a creature

The name of the correct book will be shared in the BHN`s May edition.

In mid-March, our focus shifted to the Science week when we focused on curiosity and exploring simple scientific concepts through play. Science week was followed by the Holi (Hindu festival of colour) which is a vibrant Hindu festival marking the end of winter and the arrival of spring.

The children were also busy preparing for Mother's Day by making special surprises. The Preschool will be hosting an Easter Play and Craft Session on Thursday 9th April, 10am–12pm. For more info, e-mail enquiries@barhillpreschool.co.uk.

We offer places to children the term after they are two years old. We accept 2,3,4 year old funding and also are part of the national savings childcare scheme. See our website www.barhillpreschoolcio.co.uk for more details or call **01954 782892** for an application form.

Something Big Is Brewing...

We're so excited to be bringing back Bake and Brew in 2026!

It's the perfect way to gather friends and family together and support people with cancer.

Sign up for your free fundraising pack to get invitations, cake flags, bunting and recipe ideas.

Every cuppa you make will raise vital funds for people with cancer and those who love them.

You'll become a friend of Maggie's by rising to the occasion.

Call **01223 249220** or email Helen at cambridge.fundraising@maggies.org to find out more.

Looking for Some 'Me Time'?

Join an activity in 'Arthur's Shed,' a garden studio set in the beautiful grounds of Arthur Rank Hospice in Shelford Bottom, Cambridge. They deliver sessions on a range of wellbeing related activities, including meditation, clay work, mindful drawing, astronomy, chair fit and knitting. All sessions are free of charge with materials provided. Everyone is welcome. Visit arhc.org.uk/arthursshed for more information or telephone **01223 675777** to book onto a session.

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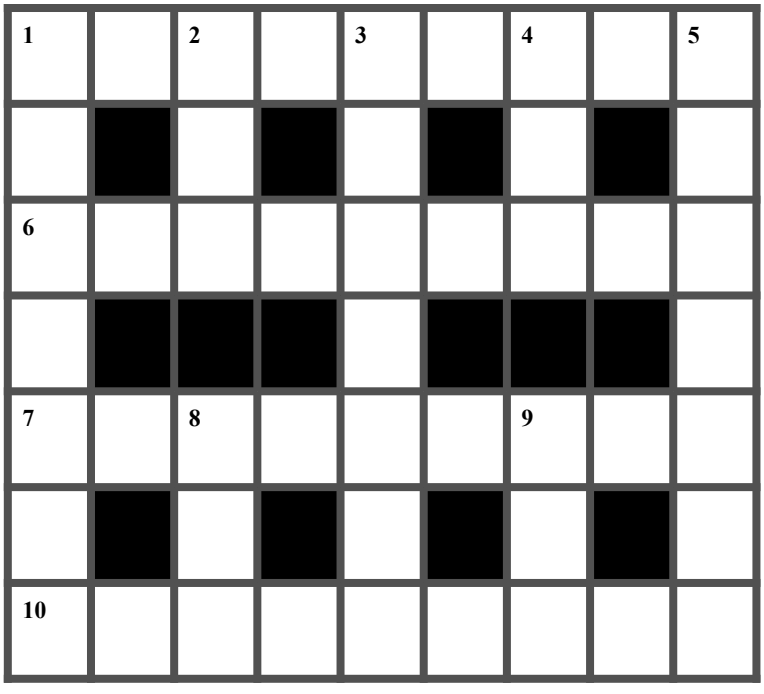

PUZZLE for April 2026

Across - 1.Irish county/1912 song. 6.furious (slang). 7.stage illumination.10.extra large.

Down - 1.spicy sauce.2.friend. 3.foodstuffs.4.pictures/sculpture etc. 5.sailed. 8.unprocessed mineral. 9.manufacturer of camping stoves etc.

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BAR HILL TENNIS & PICKLEBALL CLUB

Lighter evenings and warmer weather are here and more folks are taking the opportunity to play tennis and pickleball. If you want to learn pickleball, just come along!

Once again, we're planning to run an open day session on the afternoon of the village fete, and a session for children (accompanied by parents) in the first week of the school summer holidays.

Many thanks to those who joined the working party to clean up the courts in preparation for the spring/summer season.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

All memberships are due for renewal on 1st April and as usual the court access code will be changed from that date. Membership details for 2026-27 are available on our website. There is an active WhatsApp group for members to share information and find playing partners.

TAKE CARE…

We are currently seeking funding to resurface our ageing courts as the surface is breaking up in places leaving loose gravel on the surface. So anyone playing should take care, and particularly check that the courts are suitable for play after rain.

OCCASIONAL PAY & PLAY GAMES

You can book a pay & play game using the court's tennis or pickleball nets and your own racquets/paddles and balls. Go to https://barhilltennisclub.co.uk/book.

CLUB TIMES

Our Adult Club nights for social tennis are Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6.30 pm.

Our Adult Club times for pickleball are Monday evenings starting at 5.30 pm (beginners 5.00 pm), and Friday mornings at 10.00am.

CONTACT

Paul Chubbuck | chair@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

Richard Lewney | secretary@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

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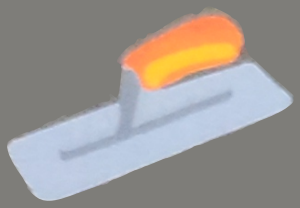

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Helping Hedgehogs in April

April is a crucial month for British hedgehogs. After hibernation, they're waking up hungry, weak, and in need of safe spaces to recover and breed.

1. Leave Food & Water Out

Hedgehogs can lose up to a third of their body weight over winter. In early spring, natural food sources are still limited.

Offer:

- Meaty cat or dog food (not fish-based)
- Hedgehog-specific dry food
- Fresh water (never milk)

Avoid bread and milk — they cause serious digestive problems. Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant.

2. Check Before You Strim or Burn

April is when people start garden clear-ups.

Always check compost heaps, long grass, and bonfires before: *Lighting, Strimming, or Using hedge trimmers*.

Hedgehogs often nest in log piles and leaf piles.

3. Safe Access/ Hedgehog Highways

Hedgehogs travel up to 1–2km a night looking for food and mates.

A 13cm x 13cm gap in fences allows them to move safely between gardens.

No gap = no food = no breeding.

4. Leave Wild Corners

Perfect April habitat includes: *Log piles, Leaf piles, Untidy hedge bases, and Wild patches*

A "messy" garden is a wildlife lifeline.

5. Avoid Slug Pellets & Chemicals

Slug pellets and pesticides poison hedgehogs indirectly through their prey. Go chemical-free.

6. Put Out a Hedgehog House

April is when nesting season begins.

A purpose-built hedgehog house placed in a quiet, shaded area, Under shrubs, and Facing away from prevailing wind can become a maternity nest later in spring.

7. Know When To Call for Help

In April Hedgehogs active during the day may be unwell.

If you are concerned about a hedgehog, please seek advice immediately: Liz Dams : 07912 988898, or Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital : 07947 361187.

Early intervention can save a life!

Wildlife Gardening in April

April brings the garden to life as insects begin to emerge and birds are busy nesting. Early flowers such as primrose, lungwort and native blossom provide essential nectar for bees and other pollinators just waking from winter.

If you're tidying the garden, try to leave some areas a little wild. Long grass, log piles and leaf litter offer valuable shelter for insects, amphibians and other small creatures.

Adding a shallow dish of fresh water can also help wildlife at this busy time of year, providing a safe place to drink and bathe.

Mutt Strutt Is Back: Spring is in the air and there's nothing your four-legged friend would like more than a month of enjoyable walks together. Sign up for Maggie's Mutt Strutt and turn those walks in to support for people with cancer, and their family and friends. Do it with the kids at Easter or sign up with your friends. Take on 100km in a month and raise £150 for Maggie's - it's free to take part and we'll supply the eye-catching bandana! There's even a prize for the top doggy fundraiser! 🐾

Email cambridge.fundraising@maggies.org to find out more.

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Bar Hill Village Hall

The large Main Hall has multi-purpose vinyl flooring, making it flexible for all types of events. There is a kitchen alongside the Hall with a serving hatch, making it useful for self-catering at parties, discos and the like. The licensed bar can be booked on request and will be serviced by the Sports and Social Club. The Hall opens out onto a large patio area that is ideal for external activities or a spill-over for internal events and has two bolted gates that lead off the premises.

There is also a Meeting Room, with its own independent access and great for meetings of up to 10 people.

The Village Hall is managed as a registered charity (number 1002579). To book, please visit our web site **barhillvillagehall.com** and email **enquiries@barhillvillagehall.com** to confirm arrangements.

Alternatively, call **01954 782414** and leave a message. We aim to return calls within 24hours (Monday to Friday).

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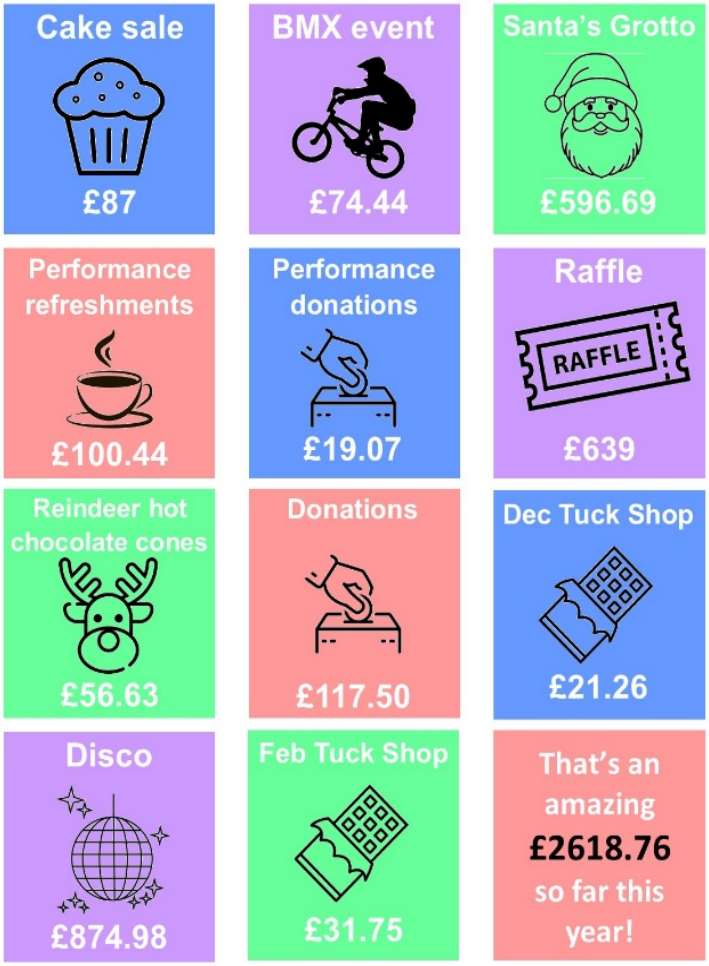
Bar Hill Primary School PTA Update

This academic year the PTA are aiming to raise £5000 for new laptops for the school. Including £1500 from last year's fund-raising we have raised a total of £3618.76. The whole school experienced a panto over Christmas to which the PTA donated £500.

The PTA would like to thank Tesco Bar Hill for the donations regularly received towards events of food and hot drinks supplies.

The PTA are holding their AGM on Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm at Bar Hill Primary School, all parents are welcome.



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1st Bar Hill Guiding

It's been over 100 years since Girlguiding was established, growing into a vast and vibrant network of members across the UK and worldwide with our members still pushing boundaries and achieving great things!

It's never dull at Bar Hill Guides, who offer a relaxed, welcoming space where you can have fun, learn and be yourself with good friends from 10 to 14 years old.

As well as weekly term time meetings we offer many additional activities, day trips and weekends and 2026 is no different, we have a fun packed year planned that has already included a chocolate filled sleepover. Also planned is a Gt Ouse Diversion with girls coming together for a fun afternoon to celebrate 100 years of Thinking Day, a day trip with our wider Anglia family to Wicksteed Park and an annual summer camp. Moving into the winter months we have Big Gig and a fun filled afternoon at the panto.

Would you like your daughter to learn skills for life, whilst having fun with friends?

To register: **www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/**

If you have any questions, please contact us (**barhillguiding@icloud.com**)

Have Fun Whilst Supporting Others: Mission Mud, in Waterbeach on Saturday 9 May, is all about taking on messy obstacles together, cheering each other on and heading home with big smiles and stories to tell. Whether you're a seasoned mud runner or giving it a go for the first time, Mission Mud is open to everyone aged 7 years and over. Support patients and families at Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and sign up at arhc.org.uk/missionmud

FRIENDS OF THE ROSIE

We wish all our customers a Happy Easter with their families. We have Easter themed gifts on our website, see below.

With your help we have raised £1,234 in 2026 to help make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies.

Next month we will report on how we spent your donations.

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters, join our committee, provide transport for our volunteers or display a small selection of our wares. If you would like to donate some of your spare time check out our website's volunteering page for some ideas.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all the very best for 2026.

Avril Williams | **07493692010**
avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk
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Arthur Rank Hospice Is More Than You Think!

One of the most common things the staff hear at Arthur Rank Hospice is "I didn't realise it was as lovely as this." Would you like to visit Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and find out more about their range of services and visit their Bistro which is open to the public every day from 9am-4pm. Visit arhc.org.uk/openday for more information or call **01223 675777** to find out more.

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1st SUNDAY IN THE MONTH
12:30 pm- 3:30 pm
DOORS OPEN 12 NOON

April 12th
The Golden Era Jazzband
(Moved to avoid Easter)

May 3rd The Riverside Jazzband
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IAN SOLLOM MP NEWSLETTER

Sign Up To Receive an Email Newsletter at **Iansollom.Org/Emails**

Young Carers Action Day

To mark Young Carers Action Day in March, I met with a really impressive group of young people in Parliament to hear about their campaigns. Namely, they are pushing for proper support in schools for young carers, and for improved funding so they don't miss out on education opportunities.

The educational inequalities for young carers are clear. Figures from the Carers Trust and Young Carers Alliance show that young carers miss 23 days of school a year; 38% are persistently absent and 46% achieve 5 GCSE passes including maths and English - the national average is 58%.

Young carers are calling for the Government to ensure there is a Young Carer Lead or Champion in every school, college and university. This gives children and young people someone to talk to if needed, who understands what is happening outside of school life and can advocate on their behalf if homework deadlines or classes are missed, for example. A champion will educate staff and pupils through assemblies and lesson plans.

I was so impressed with the way the group I met advocated for all those young carers in a similar position to them. Many had taken a lead in driving change and support in their own schools where it hadn't been before. They talked about the importance of support not just in school but throughout the community so they could have a social life and take part in activities that are often not available to them. I will continue to support their campaign and do all I can to champion their voices.

Local Mobile Coverage Survey

On the doorstep, I have often had conversations about the poor quality of mobile signal in different areas across the constituency. Sometimes while travelling in the area, sometimes even in their own homes, I know that residents are frustrated with the patchiness of connectivity and it is having a real impact on their ability to work, communicate, and even contact emergency services.

To build a better picture of the situation across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire, I have launched a survey which asks about particularly troubling areas and which providers are failing to deal with issues. I will then use this information to press providers to improve their service and make sure it is fit for purpose. You can find the survey here: www.iansollom.org/mobilesignal

If you would like to contact me, please email **ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk**, visit my website **www.iansollom.org**, or alternatively you can follow me on X: @IanSollom, Facebook **www.facebook.com/IanFSollom** or Instagram **www.instagram.com/iansollom**

Buttercups CHILDCARE LTD

Bar Hill Day Nursery and Out of School Club

www.buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk

Bar Hill Day Nursery is based in Gladeside, Bar Hill. We are open 7.30am – 6pm, Monday to Friday, 50 weeks per year. We have spaces year-round or term-time for children aged 4 months to 4 years. Please contact the Nursery for more information or to arrange a visit. **Phone: 01954 488081 Email: info@buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk**

Bar Hill Out of School Club is based in the building next to Bar Hill Primary School. We offer Before and After School care and Holiday Club for Primary aged children. We are open 7.30am – 8.45am, 3pm – 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 6pm during school holidays. For more information or to make a booking please contact the Out of School Club: **Phone 01954 200814 Email: oosc@buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk**

Longstanton at Northstowe Bowls Club

The game of lawn green bowls is suitable for boys and girls, men and women of all ages. Our 2026 season starts on Saturday 18th April at 2pm with our open day. The bowling season finishes in early September. Our bowls green is located at Western Park Sports Pavilion, Peppercorn Drive, Northstowe, CB24 1BF. When entering Northstowe off the Willingham Road, just follow the signs to the "Sports Pavilion".

If you would like to try lawn bowls, just visit the club on a Thursday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. By arrangement, sessions are also held on a Saturday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. All you need is a pair of flat sole shoes; we can provide everything else. There is no particular dress code for the "roll-up" sessions. If you're unable to make either a Thursday or Saturday afternoon then please contact the club

(contact details are listed below) and we'll make alternative arrangements. If you're not sure if bowls is the game for you, then why not come along and just spectate. There are plenty of seats overlooking the green and in the evenings the Pavilion bar will be open if you get thirsty. A full list of our fixtures can be found in the "Diary" within the members area of this web site. Remember to check for "home" fixtures.

If you would like to play regularly then our club membership is not expensive. The first year's membership is just £10.00. After that there is an annual membership fee of £45.00 for under 63s and £40.00 for over 63s. You then pay an additional £4.00 green fee for every league match that you play. The club runs a number of club competitions and the entrance fee for each competition is only £4.00.

As a club member you can attend the club's roll-up events or at any other times when there is a rink available. If you would like to play competitively; the club has teams in the following leagues: the Cambridge Business Houses League (4 bowl pairs), Cambridge and District League (3 bowl triples), Meldreth and District (3 bowl triples) Ely and District Afternoon League (3 bowl triples) and the club competitions.

With around 110 competitive matches to be played in the season, everyone gets the chance to play in their preferred leagues, some of which are a little more competitive than others.

If you're a complete novice or an experienced bowler we would love to hear from you.

Contact Name: David Slights

Contact Telephone: **01954 203231**

david@Longstanton-Bowls-Club.co.uk

https://www.longstanton-bowls-club.co.uk/

Longstanton at Northstowe Bowls Club

Walk To Support Hospice Care

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Star Shine Night Walk is back for 2026 and you can book two unforgettable sunset walks on Saturday 16 May in Wisbech and Saturday 20 June in Cambridge. Whether you're walking in memory of someone special, joining with friends and family, or simply wanting to support local hospice care, Star Shine Night Walk offers a beautiful moment of reflection, connection, and community. As the sun sets, you'll walk side by side, honouring loved ones, celebrating life and helping raise vital funds for patients across Cambridgeshire. Sign up now at arhc.org.uk/SSNW and be part of something truly special.

Bar Hill
Primary School

We are pleased to introduce our School Uniform Swap, located in the foyer outside the office, from next week.

As children grow quickly, many uniforms are still in excellent condition when outgrown. Reusing them helps reduce unnecessary manufacturing and landfill.

Families are warmly encouraged to both add items and take what they need. We hope all members of our school community will make use of it freely, it is here for everyone. Please could we ask that any items you donate are clean and in good condition!

Tag Rugby in UKS2

We've had a fantastic start to tag rugby!

Even though the children have only had two PE lessons so far, they've already made impressive progress. Their passing is now travelling in the right direction (a brand-new concept for many in the first lesson!), their tactical awareness is developing, and - most importantly - they are all taking part with huge smiles on their faces.

A quick reminder that it's essential for children to bring a change of shoes for PE lessons, especially when we are working on the field. This keeps everyone safe, comfortable, and protects our indoor spaces from mud.

Thank You for the Wonderful Feedback

We've received some lovely messages from parents about the recent bike lessons and wider sports opportunities:

"Thank you so much for making this happen, especially when we couldn't provide a bike or know someone who could. We are very grateful for the extra effort and, of course, very proud of our child!"

"Our children had been looking forward to this activity, and we are truly thankful for all the effort that went into making it possible."

These messages highlight the dedication of our staff and the positive impact these opportunities have on our children.

Thank you for your support.

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Local Athlete Wins Powerlifting Gold

Seventeen-year-old Sunny Mayo, who works locally as a massage therapist at The Farmhouse in Bar Hill, took first place in his category while representing Nova Performance Barbell Club in St Ives. Competing against some of the country's top junior lifters, Sunny secured the gold medal with a series of strong lifts across the competition.

Sunny currently competes in the Under-20 79kg category in Olympic weightlifting and the Sub-Junior 74kg category in powerlifting. Despite his young age, he has already achieved impressive competition lifts, including a 94kg snatch and 120kg clean and jerk in Olympic weightlifting, alongside a 180kg squat, 140kg bench press and 220kg deadlift in powerlifting. These performances place him among the strongest junior lifters in England in his age and weight category.

Before moving into strength sports, Sunny spent more than 12 years competing as an elite gymnast at Huntingdon Gymnastics Club. Since transitioning fully to weightlifting and powerlifting in late 2023, he has already achieved several national podium finishes and qualified for the British Championships in both sports.

Sunny hopes his success will inspire other young people in the Bar Hill area to take up strength sports and pursue their sporting ambitions.

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION DROP IN

On Tuesday 3 March, Maverick, the company that Bar Hill has chosen to build its very own Skatepark, held a consultation. Maverick's two experts engaged with locals during the afternoon at Bar Hill School and in the evening at The Fox pub. Known skaters, previously unknown skaters, a local councillor, and members of the public attended in good numbers. Maverick shared a possible park design that aimed to include a range of facilities. Those who attended were given opportunities to share and write benefits and concerns. This produced lots of positive feedback and some specific requests. There is a shared hope for a road crossing, which is something which we will explore with the County Council and Highways England. It was a good collaboration where the possible scenarios and the wished for scenarios came together and started to get to know each other. Thank you to all who dropped in!

Bar Hill Open Gardens

The National Open Garden Scheme was founded in 1927 with the objective "to open gardens of quality, character and interest to raise funds for nursing and health charities". The Regional Organiser is keen for Bar Hill to join the scheme to increase the number of smaller open gardens. Smaller gardens are typically open as part of a group open gardens event.

As some of us are aware there are arguably some exceptional gardens hidden across the village. The 60th anniversary of the foundation of Bar Hill in 2027 would provide an opportunity for these gardens to be seen by others. To meet this deadline the Regional Organiser will need to accept the gardens into the scheme by the end of June this year.

If you would be interested in exploring the opportunity to open your garden I would be delighted to hear from you. Please don't be shy.

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Parish Council Elections

These are due to take place in May.

If you would like to stand for election to the Parish Council, nomination papers need to be delivered by hand to the Cambourne Offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council between 30 March and 9 April. Further details and a link to the papers can be found on the SCDC website: https://www.scambs.gov.uk/elections/elections-2026

Covid-19 Commemoration Tree

A blossom tree has been planted near the Church to mark the Covid-19 Day of Reflection on 8 March. The tree stands in honour of the community volunteers and in remembrance of those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. You may also have noticed a number of other trees have been planted around the village.

Play Park

Please can adults NOT use the play equipment in the new play park this is to stop equipment breaking and wearing.

Potholes

Please report potholes or any other highways or footpath issues on Cambridgeshire County Council's website: https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb

Fly Tipping

Please can residents not Fly Tip their rubbish as this involves a considerable cost (£120) to residents and comes out of the precept. If you would like to give away free items, please put them within your property boundary and not on public/private land.

Dog Fouling

Please make sure you clean up after your dogs and have poo bags with you when out walking with your dogs. Please report any concerns here https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/report-or-request/report-environmental-issues.

Litter Picking

A big thank you to all those that take time to pick litter around the village. If anyone would like a bag & litter picker to pick when they have time, please contact the Clerk on **01954 780456** or clerk@barhill-pc.gov.uk to collect from the PC office.

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COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Full Council Meeting

16 April 2026 - 7pm in the Parish Council Office

MAPLE SURGERY - March Update

maplesurgery.enquiries@nhs.net | 01954 780442

Surgery Update

Maple Surgery's directly employed (CGPN) staff - There have been no changes within the Maple Surgery team.

Planned Closure Date for Staff Training

Wednesday 18th March - 2pm to 6pm

Our local commissioners are currently going through a merger, so no further dates have been released. We expect to hear more once the merger has been concluded and decisions regarding dates have been made.

Flu and COVID Vaccinations

We have now finished vaccinations for Flu.

However, we will be re-starting with COVID vaccine clinics from 16th April onwards for those patients who are eligible.

We will be making contact with eligible patients, so if you have not been contacted, please let us know so that we can assist you.

Refurbishment Works at Maple Surgery

The contractors have been on site and working in earnest since the start of the year.

We are expecting the builders to be on site until around the end of March/middle of April 2026

The first phase of the work has now been completed, which means that 2 clinical rooms have been finished along with the patient toilets. In addition to this, the contractors have installed new hot and cold water supply to the whole building; changed the doors and door frames to several of the currently occupied spaces, all to try to gain a little time within their tight programme.

We recognise that there will be some disruptions at points during the process, but the contractors have shown a real willingness to work with the Practice team to keep them to a minimum. A majority of the noisy works have now been completed, so we hope disruptions can be kept to a minimum.

We are open for business as usual! We appreciate your patience.

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WILLINGHAM JAZZ CLUB

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1st SUNDAY IN THE MONTH
12:30 pm- 3:30 pm
DOORS OPEN 12 NOON

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(Moved to avoid Easter)

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Admission £12.00
Fully Licensed Bar. Large Dance Floor. Tea/ Coffee & Fresh Rolls Available.

For further information call Rosie-Val on **01954 789670**

Bar Hill Church News

Services for March may be viewed on our website barhillchurch.org.uk

Dried in sun, roasted and ground into paste.....

...then heated, mixed and poured out as a glossy, smooth liquid. This is the journey of the cocoa bean from South America or Africa to our local shops. It provides us with the excitement on Easter Sunday of opening our first chocolate eggs.

Easter is a wonderful time of new life as trees and flowers burst into bloom, as winter fades into the background and spring emerges. We experience longer, warmer days and sunnier weather. And we enjoy chocolate - lots of chocolate.

But is that it? Is that all that Easter is about?

At Bar Hill Church we will be remembering the first Easter. Jesus' short life on this earth came to a dramatic end when he was killed on a Roman cross. We call it Good Friday, because in dying for us he opened a path back to God. And then on Easter Sunday he didn't stay dead any longer. The tomb in which his body was placed was empty. He had defeated death and come back to life. And he appeared to many people. If you want to know more, we would love to chat to you. Do contact either Wendy, Julie or Jonathan.

We wish you a very Happy Easter - and let's enjoy that chocolate!

Church Office: Ian Farr, 01954 206120, church.office@barhillchurch.org.uk

Enquiries about hiring space for an event should be directed to Ian.

Minister: Revd Wendy Wale 07780 828865

minister@barhillchurch.org.uk

follow us on

April 2026 Timetable

Every Monday, 10-12 (unless otherwise listed) in the Octagon (opposite Maple Surgery)
The Hub is for people of all ages as a place to gather & enjoy community!

6 April	Coffee Stop Foodbank Advice Sign-posting Chess, traditional & 5Aside versions	EASTER MONDAY - NO HUB TODAY
13 April		Carers Café - First Aid with Nigel 10.00 - 11.30
20 April		Health & Wellbeing 10.15 - 10.45
27 April		Evergreens 10.00 - 11.30 Meet a Parish Councillor 10.00 - 12.00

WHEN: Every Monday 10am - 12pm. There will be **no** Community Hub on Monday 6th April, Easter Monday. We wish you all a happy Easter, and look forward to seeing you again on Monday 13th April.

WHERE: The Octagon (opposite Maple Surgery), Bar Hill, CB23 8EH

WHAT: Our vision is to create a fairer and friendlier community, so everyone can thrive and knows where to turn to for warmth, welcome, friendship and support. The Hub is a busy gathering space, providing a warm, comfortable, welcoming space for our entire community. Come along and join us, we look forward to seeing you!

Coffee Stop: Pop in for a coffee, a piece of delicious home-made cake and a chat with friends, old and new!

Foodbank: No need for any vouchers. If you are struggling financially, drop by and let us help you, available between **10.00 - 11.30 am.**

NEW SERVICE: HUB ADVICE DROP-IN: Available from **10.00 - 11.30 am** on Mondays with Kevin. Just call into the Community Hub during this time and we will be pleased to point you in the right direction.

Evergreens: a safe space for those with memory loss to enjoy: Conversation, Connection, Celebration. Accompanied by a carer, friend or family member. When: usually 4th Monday of each month.

Health & Wellbeing: On the 1st & 3rd Monday, take advantage of some exercise guidance from our experienced coach (starting at 10.15am).

Carers Café: On the 2nd Monday of the month, providing support for any carers in the village, even if you are not a patient of Maple Surgery.

Meet a Parish Councillor: you can meet one of our Parish Councillors to discuss any issues within our village, between 10am and 12pm on the 4th Monday of the month. Just look for the sign within the Coffee Stop.

Traditional & 5Aside Chess (within the Coffee Stop): A great way to connect and start a conversation with people happy to teach you this wonderful game. Come along and join us for refreshments and a chat!

Your Community Hub…in the community, by the community, for the community!